



Porter County Animal Shelter

2018 Annual Report

1. Introduction.....	Page 2
2. Intake Highlights.....	Page 3
3. Intakes By Species & Category.....	Page 4
4. Intakes By Municipal Jurisdiction.....	Page 5
5. Intakes Year To Year Comparison.....	Page 6
6. Outcome Highlights.....	Page 7
7. Outcomes By Species & Category.....	Page 8
8. Outcomes By Municipal Jurisdiction.....	Page 9
9. Outcomes Year To Year Comparison.....	Page 10
10. Outcomes Length Of Stay.....	Page 11
11. Outcomes No Kill Status.....	Page 12
12. Financials.....	Page 13
13. Outreach.....	Page 14
14. Accountability & Transparency.....	Page 15



To our knowledge, the Porter County Animal Shelter is the **ONLY** shelter in northwest Indiana that regularly makes our intake and outcome data readily available to the public. Since September of 2015, we have been posting intake and outcome data on our website, at least semi-annually.

While these reports have provided a snapshot of our progress, they do not tell the whole story about the progression of changes and improvements that have occurred including:

- **The New Animal Shelter Facility: 2018** is the first full calendar year that we have occupied the new shelter facility.
- **Staffing: 2018** is the first full calendar year of an appropriately staffed organization of dedicated, professional employees.
- **In-House Animal Control: 2018** is the first full year that Animal Control has been under the jurisdiction and house at the new shelter facility.

It is not an overstatement to say that these improvements were the primary reasons that the 2018 is the Shelter's most successful year ever. We felt it was an important time to introduce this 2018 Annual Report to increase our level of transparency to our stakeholders and demonstrate that their investment, support and commitment to the Shelter, and the animals we care for, is yielding positive results.

2018 Intake Highlights

- **840 total intakes, of which 58.7% were dogs, 38.0% were cats and 3.3% were other species.**
- **Intakes by jurisdiction included 46.0% from unincorporated Porter County; 49.6% from municipalities; 4.4% from outside Porter County.**
- **Since 2016, animal intakes have stabilized in the range of 800 to 900 animals a year, even with the addition of intakes from the city of Portage which began in June of 2017.**
- **Strays from Animal Control agencies are showing a downward trend. This can be attributed to more effective efforts by Porter County Animal Control to re-home lost animals BEFORE they come to the shelter and our ability to increase owner surrenders because of the expanded capacity at the new shelter.**

3. Intakes By Species & Category



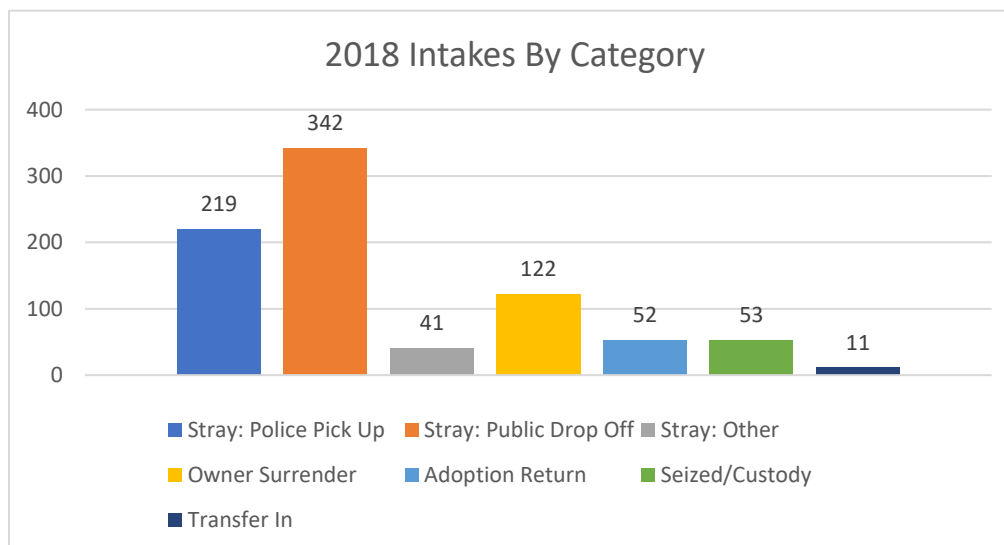
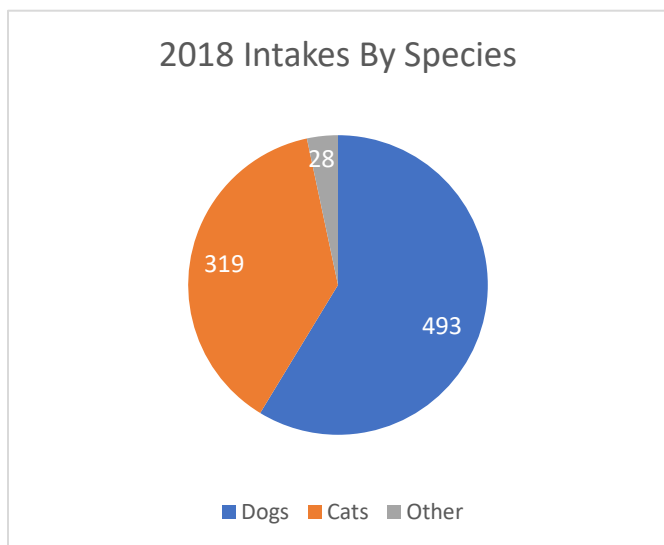
Animal Intakes By Species & Category: January 1 Through December 31, 2018

Species	Stray Animal Control		Stray Public Drop Off		Stray Abandon At Shelter		Stray Born In Care		Stray Dead On		Stray Trap-Neuter		Owner Surrender		Adoption Return		Seized/Custody		Transfer In		Total Intakes	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Dogs	197	40.0%	152	30.8%	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	6	1.2%	0	0.0%	71	14.4%	33	6.7%	31	6.3%	1	0.2%	493	58.7%
Cats	20	6.3%	186	58.3%	5	1.6%	23	7.2%	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	50	15.7%	17	5.3%	3	0.9%	10	3.1%	319	38.0%
Other	2	7.1%	4	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.6%	2	7.1%	19	67.9%	0	0.0%	28	3.3%
Total	219	26.1%	342	40.7%	7	0.8%	23	2.7%	11	1.3%	0	0.0%	122	14.5%	52	6.2%	53	6.3%	11	1.3%	840	100.0%

During calendar year 2018, the Shelter took in 840 animals, of which 493 (58.7%) were dogs, 319 (38.0%) were cats and 28 (3.3%) were other species including reptiles, rabbits, chickens and a rooster.

Of the 840 intakes, 219 (26.1%) were strays picked up by animal control; 342 (40.7%) were strays dropped off by the public, 7 (.8%) were strays left abandoned at the Shelter during off hours, 11 (1.3%) were dead on arrival, and 23 were kittens born to stray mothers while in the Shelter's care. The Shelter accepted 122 (14.5%) intakes from owners who could no longer care for their animals and 52 (6.2%) returned adoptions. 53 (6.3%) of the intakes were seized or placed in the Shelter's custody by law enforcement agencies, including 27 for animal welfare issues, and 15 because their owner passed away. The Shelter also accepted 11 (1.3%) intakes from other Shelters and rescues to aid them in hoarding and overcrowding situations.

In reviewing the individual 52 returned adoption files, we determined that at least 25% of them were animals that had been adopted over a year before they were returned or for reasons that had nothing to do with the original adoption (i.e. owner moving, change in lifestyle). They should have been more appropriately reported as Owner Surrenders. The Shelter is developing criteria to be used in determining the proper classification in the future.



4. Intakes By Municipal Jurisdiction



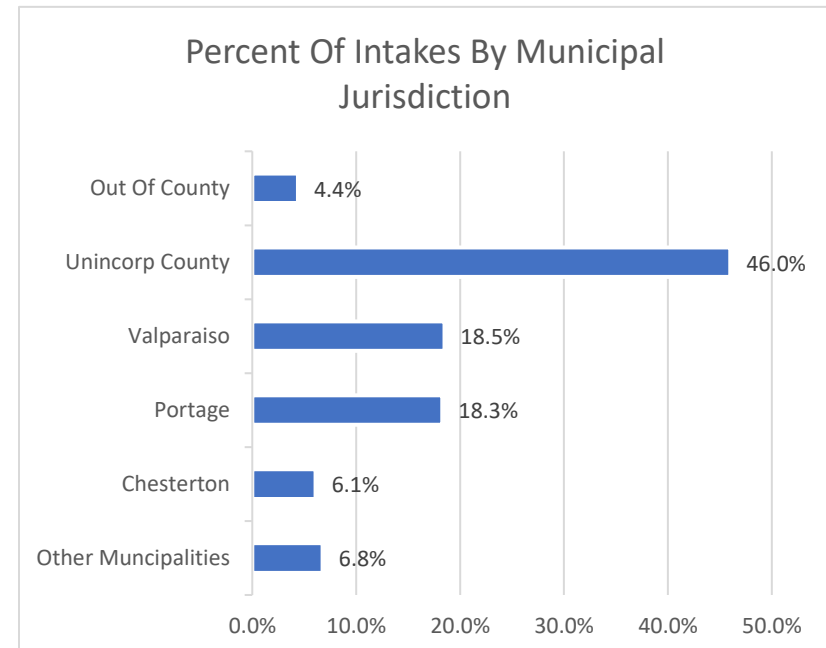
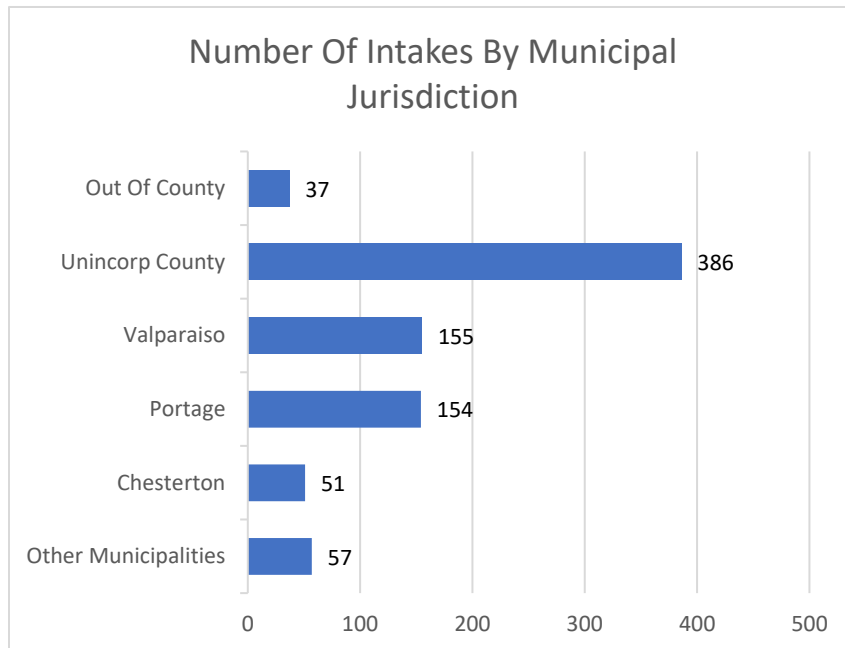
Animal Intakes By Species & Municipal Jurisdiction: January 1 Through December 31, 2018

Species	Beverly Shores		Burns Harbor		Chesterton		Dune Acres		Hebron		Kouts		Ogden Dunes		Pines		Portage		Town Of Porter		Valparaiso		Unincorp. County		Out Of County		Total
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
Dog	2	0.4%	1	0.2%	30	6.1%	0	0.0%	21	4.3%	5	1.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.8%	105	21.3%	8	1.6%	79	16.0%	218	44.2%	20	4.1%	493
Cat	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	21	6.6%	0	0.0%	9	2.8%	5	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	47	14.7%	2	0.6%	65	20.4%	153	48.0%	17	5.3%	319
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	7.1%	0	0.0%	11	39.3%	15	53.6%	0	0.0%	28
Total	2	0.2%	1	0.1%	51	6.1%	0	0.0%	30	3.6%	10	1.2%	0	0.0%	4	0.5%	154	18.3%	10	1.2%	155	18.5%	386	46.0%	37	4.4%	840

The Shelter accepts intakes from all of Porter County, including our cities and towns, whether they come from animal control agencies or the public at large. Of our 840 intakes in 2018, 386 (46%) of our intakes came from unincorporated Porter County (areas outside the municipal boundaries of cities and towns), 417 (49.6%) came from our cities and towns and 37 (4.4%) came from outside Porter County.

Of the 417 animals that came from our cities and towns, 155 (18.5%) were from the city of Valparaiso, 154 (18.3%) were from the city of Portage, 51 (6.1%) were from the town of Chesterton and 30 (3.6%) were from the town of Hebron. The remaining 27 animals (3%) were from Beverly Shores, Burns Harbor, Kouts, Pines and the town of Porter.

The 37 intakes (4.4%) that were accepted from outside the County included transfers from other shelters who had inadequate space and adoptions that were returned by out of county adopters.



5. Intakes – Year To Year Comparison



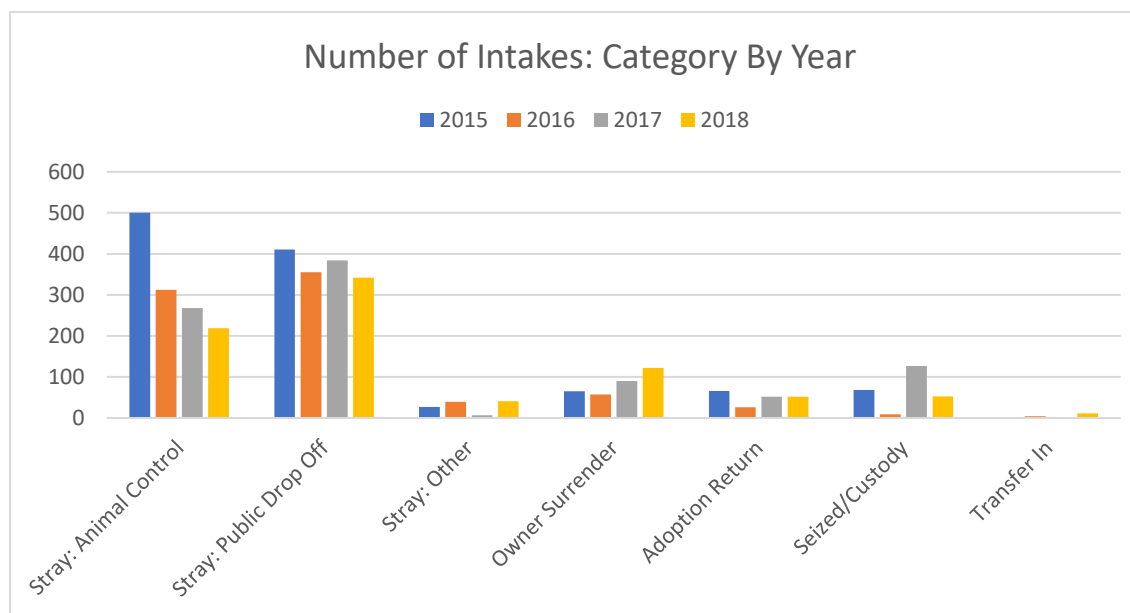
Intake Year To Year Comparison - 2015 Through 2018

Year	Stray Animal Control		Stray Public Drop Off		Stray Abandon At Shelter		Stray Born In Care		Stray Dead On Arrival		Stray Trap-Neuter Release		Owner Surrender		Adoption Return		Seized/Custody		Transfer In		Total Intakes
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
2015	500	43.9%	411	36.1%	3	0.3%	21	1.8%	3	0.3%	0	0.0%	65	5.7%	66	5.8%	68	6.0%	2	0.2%	1139
2016	312	38.9%	355	44.3%	7	0.9%	18	2.2%	2	0.2%	12	1.5%	57	7.1%	26	3.2%	9	1.1%	4	0.5%	802
2017	268	28.9%	384	41.4%	3	0.3%	4	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	90	9.7%	52	5.6%	127	13.7%	0	0.0%	928
2018	219	26.1%	342	40.7%	7	0.8%	23	2.7%	11	1.3%	0	0.0%	122	14.5%	52	6.2%	53	6.3%	11	1.3%	840
Average	325	35.0%	373	40.2%	5	0.5%	17	1.8%	4	0.4%	3	0.3%	84	9.0%	49	5.3%	64	6.9%	4	0.5%	927

After 2015, annual intakes appear to be stabilizing in the range of 800 to 900 animals per year. While there was a spike in 2017, that was due to the seizure of over 90 animals from a pet store, with most of those placed with rescues within a couple of weeks. When comparing 2016 (the last full year at the old shelter) to 2018 (the first full year at the new shelter), there are some notable positive trends.

First, during 2016 the Shelter was not accepting animals from the city of Portage, and there were 802 total intakes. In 2018, the first full year the Shelter accepted animals from Portage, total intakes only increased by 38 animals even with the addition of 154 intakes from the city of Portage.

Second, both the number and percentage of Strays from Animal Control agencies have showed a downward trend, even with the addition of animals from Portage Animal Control. Part of this is due to the Shelter no longer accepting feral cats. It also MAY be partially attributable to the corresponding increase in both the number and percentage of Owner Surrenders. Our ability to accept more Owner Surrenders was due to one reason...the new and larger Animal Shelter facility. A case could be made that accepting more Owner Surrenders reduces the number of unwanted animals who are dumped or abandoned.



2018 Outcome Highlights

- **Achieved the highest number of adoptions since we began reporting data in 2015 with a total of 502 adoptions, 56.4% of our total outcomes.**
- **When compared to 2016 (the last full year at the old shelter), total positive outcomes are up even though we have drastically reduced our reliance on transferring animals to rescue organizations.**
- **Of the returned to owner and adoption outcomes, 36.6% were to unincorporated Porter County; 20.9% were out of county; 20.7% were to the city of Valparaiso; 11.0% were to the city of Portage; and 10.8% were to all other municipal jurisdictions combined.**
- **When compared to 2016 (the last full year at the old shelter), we achieved a dramatic reduction in the average length of stay per animal outcome from 67 days in 2016 to 47 days in 2018.**
- **Not only have we maintained our no-kill status (below 10% of outcomes), we reduced both the number and rate of euthanizations in 2018 to just 25 euthanizations and a rate of 2.81%, the lowest since we began reporting in 2015.**

7. Outcomes By Species & Categories

Animal Outcomes By Species & Category: January 1 Through December 31, 2018

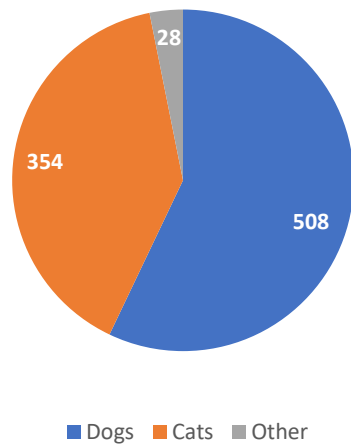
Species	Adopted Out		Return To Owner		Transfer To Rescue		Transfer Out TNR		Died In Care		Dead On Arrival		Euthansia: Age		Euthansia: Aggression		Euthansia: Medical		Euthansia: Parvo		Euthansia: Total		Total Outcomes
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
Dogs	195	38.4%	220	43.3%	75	14.8%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	6	1.2%	0	0.0%	4	0.8%	7	1.4%	0	0.0%	11	2.2%	508
Cats	286	80.8%	25	7.1%	17	4.8%	0	0.0%	7	2.0%	5	1.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	4.0%	0	0.0%	14	4.0%	354
Other	21	75.0%	1	3.6%	6	21.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	28
Total	502	56.4%	246	27.6%	98	11.0%	0	0.0%	8	0.9%	11	1.2%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%	21	2.4%	0	0.0%	25	2.8%	890

Without a doubt, 2018 was the most successful year for the Shelter since we began reporting our data in 2015. Adoptions set a new record with the actual number of adoptions (502) and with the percentage of adoption outcomes (56.4%). Of the remaining total outcomes, 246 (27.6%) were returned to owners, 98 (11.0%) were transferred to rescue organizations, 8 (.9%) died in care, 11 (1.2%) were dead on arrival and 25 (2.8%) were euthanized.

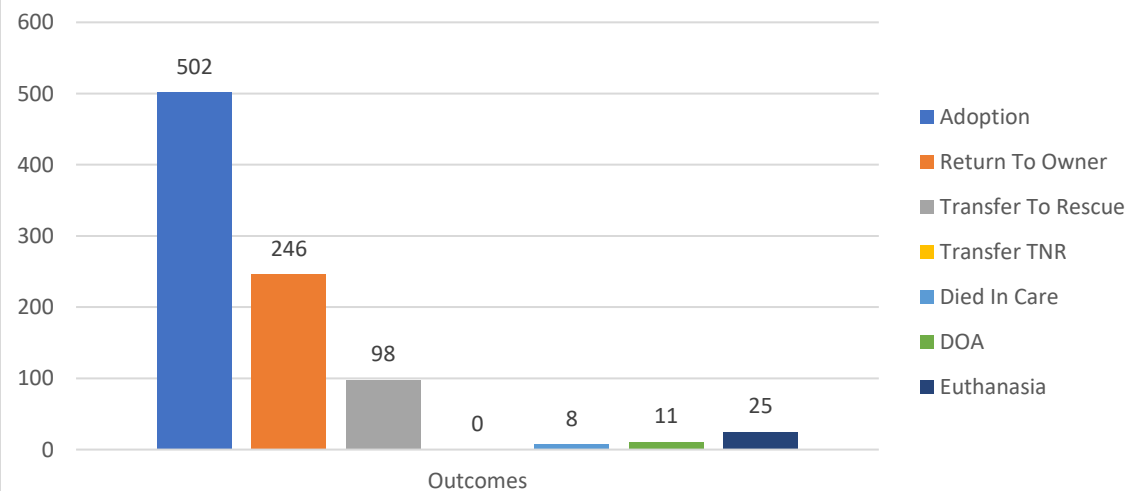
Of the cat outcomes, 286 (80.8%) were adopted, 25 (7.15%) were returned to owners, 17 (4.8%) were transferred to rescue organizations, 7 (2.0%) died in care, 5 (1.4%) were dead on arrival and 14 (4.0%) were euthanized.

Of the dog outcomes, 195 (38.4%) were adopted, 220 (43.3%) were returned to owners, 75 (14.8%) were transferred to rescue organizations, 1 (.2%) died in care, 6 (1.2%) were dead on arrival and 11 (2.2%) were euthanized.

2018 Outcomes By Species



2018 Outcomes By Category



8. Outcomes By Municipal Jurisdiction

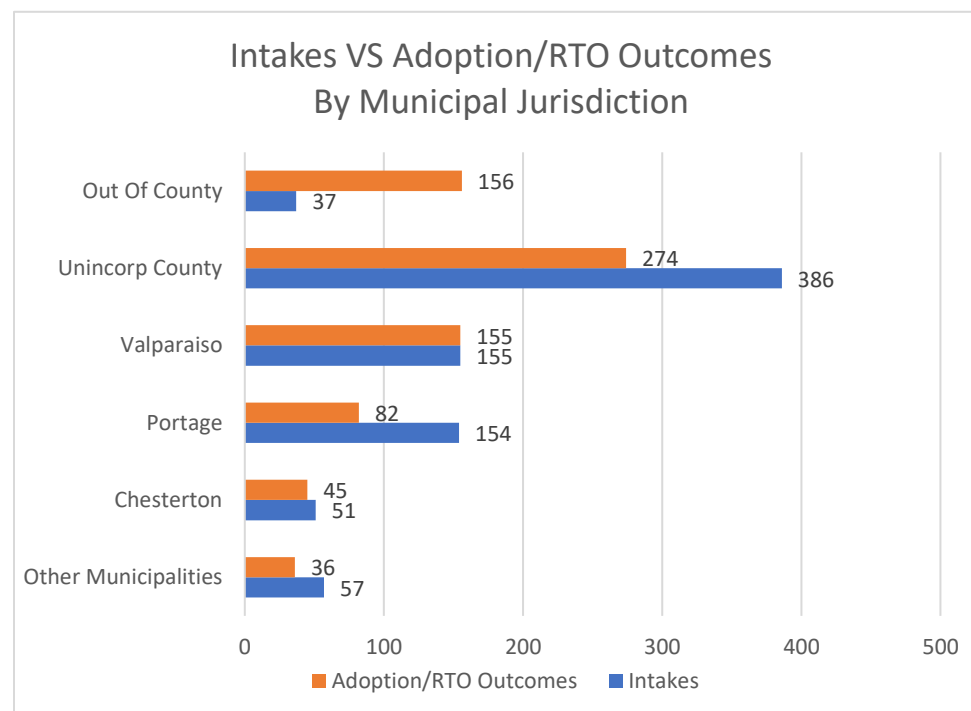
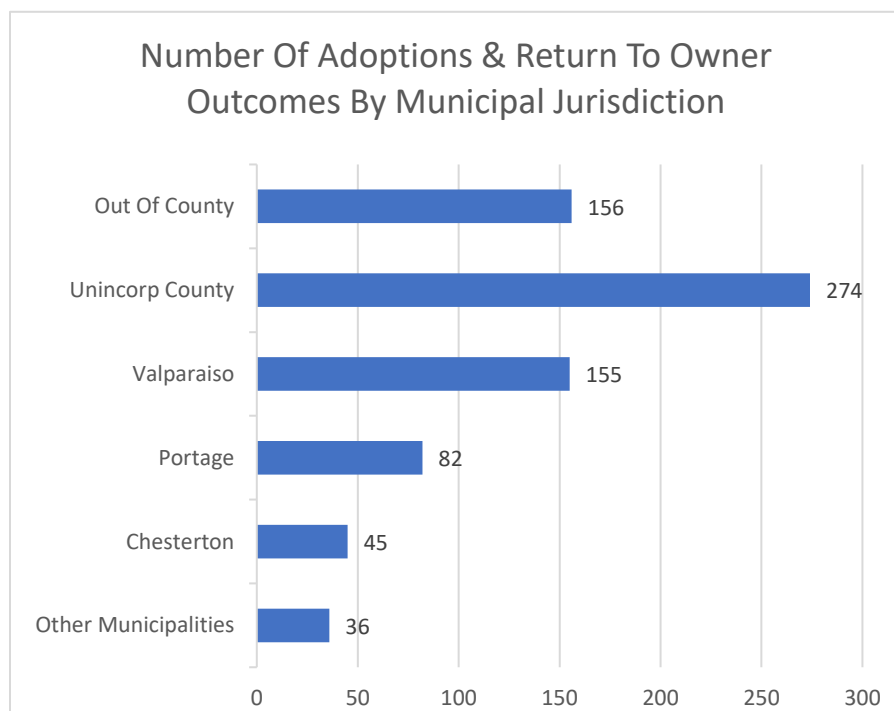


Adoptions & Return To Owner By Municipal Jurisdiction: January 1 Through December 31, 2018

Outcome Type	Beverly Shores		Burns Harbor		Chesterton		Dune Acres		Hebron		Kouts		Ogden Dunes		Pines		Portage		Porter (Town)		Valparaiso		Unincorp County		Out Of County		Total Outcomes
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count
Adoptions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	25	5.0%	0	0.0%	5	1.0%	14	2.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	34	6.8%	6	1.2%	113	22.5%	168	33.5%	137	27.3%	502
Return To Owner	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	20	8.1%	0	0.0%	5	2.0%	3	1.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	48	19.5%	2	0.8%	42	17.1%	106	43.1%	19	7.7%	246
Total	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	45	6.0%	0	0.0%	10	1.3%	17	2.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	82	11.0%	8	1.1%	155	20.7%	274	36.6%	156	20.9%	748

For the combined adoption and returned to owner outcomes by jurisdiction, 274 (36.6%) went to unincorporated Porter County, 156 (20.9%) went out of county, 155 (20.7%) went to Valparaiso, 82 (11.0%) went to Portage, 45 (6.0%) went to Chesterton, and the remaining 36 (4.8%) went to the other Porter County municipalities.

The chart below on the right compares the total number of intakes versus the combined adoptions and returned to owners outcomes by municipal jurisdictions. Only the city of Valparaiso had as many combined adoption and returned to owner outcomes as they did intakes.



9. Outcomes – Year To Year Comparison

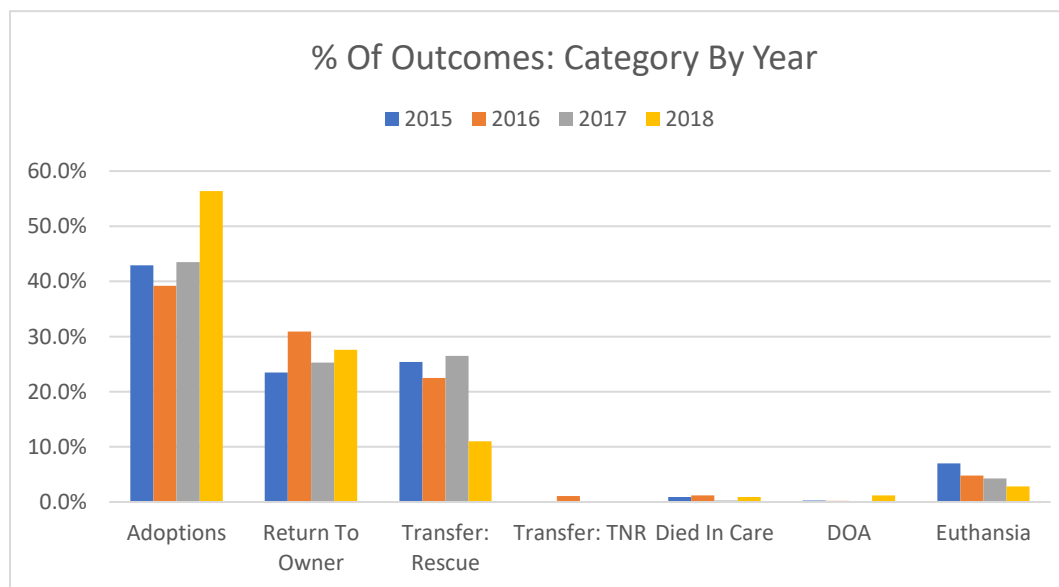


Outcomes Year To Year Comparison - 2015 Through 2018

Year	Adopted Out		Return To Owner		Transfer To Rescue		Transfer Out TNR		Died In Care		Dead On Arrival		Euthanasia Age		Euthanasia Aggression		Euthanasia Medical		Euthanasia Parvo		Euthanasia Total		Total Outcomes
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
2015	487	42.9%	267	23.5%	288	25.4%	0	0.0%	10	0.9%	3	0.3%	0	0.0%	26	2.3%	54	4.8%	0	0.0%	80	7.0%	1135
2016	324	39.2%	255	30.9%	186	22.5%	9	1.1%	10	1.2%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	7	0.8%	33	4.0%	0	0.0%	40	4.8%	826
2017	390	43.5%	227	25.3%	238	26.5%	0	0.0%	3	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	15	1.7%	24	2.7%	0	0.0%	39	4.3%	897
2018	502	56.4%	246	27.6%	98	11.0%	0	0.0%	8	0.9%	11	1.2%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%	21	2.4%	0	0.0%	25	2.8%	890
Average	426	45.4%	249	26.5%	203	21.6%	2.3	0.2%	7.8	0.8%	4	0.4%	0	0.0%	13	1.4%	33	3.5%	0	0.0%	46	4.9%	937

In 2016 (the last full year at the old shelter), positive outcomes (adoptions, return to owners, transfers to rescues, TNR) were 93.7% of the total outcomes. In 2018 (the first full year at the new shelter), positive outcomes increased to 95% of total outcomes, even with an over 50% reduction in the number of animals that were transferred to rescue organizations. There were 502 adoptions (56.4% of total outcomes), setting a record high since we began tracking in 2015.

There are four primary reasons for these positive trends. First, because of the expanded space at the new shelter, we are less dependent on rescue organizations. Second, with more space and a full professional and dedicated staff, more training time and space is available to help behaviorally challenged animals become more adoptable. Third, the animal friendly space is less stressful on animals which makes them more adoptable. Fourth, the adopter friendly space is a more conducive environment for the public to find the right animal for their needs.



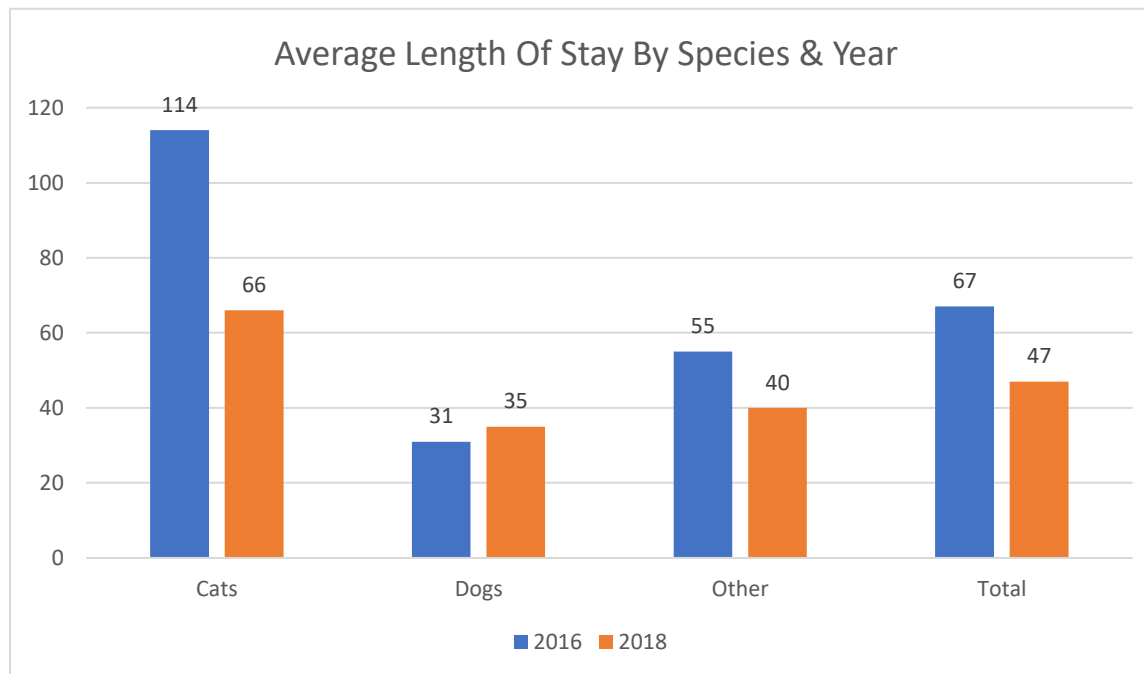
10. Outcomes: Length Of Stay

Outcomes: Length Of Stay - 2016 VS 2018

Year	Cats			Dogs			Other			Total		
	# Animals	Days At Site	Average LOS	# Animals	Days At Site	Average LOS	# Animals	Days At Site	Average LOS	# Animals	Days At Site	Average LOS
2016	373	42433	114	488	15032	31	9	498	55	870	57963	67
2018	354	23354	66	508	17527	35	28	1109	40	890	41990	47
Difference	(19)	(19079)	(48)	20	2495	4	19	611	(16)	20	(15973)	(19)

When compared to 2016 (the last full year at the old shelter), we achieved a dramatic reduction in the average animal length of stay from 67 days in 2016 to 47 days in 2018. While the length of stay for dogs was almost equal, the reduced average length of stay for cats was remarkable. A case can be made that, because of the new community cat room environment where the felines can be seen by adopters in a less stressful and more playful environment, the cats are much more likely to be adopted. Additionally, staff can spend more time working with the cats to socialize them and make them more adoptable.

This reduction in average length of stay is not only very positive for the animals. It directly contributes to reductions in variable costs including veterinary services, household and bedding, other supplies, and hourly wages.



11. Outcomes: No Kill Status



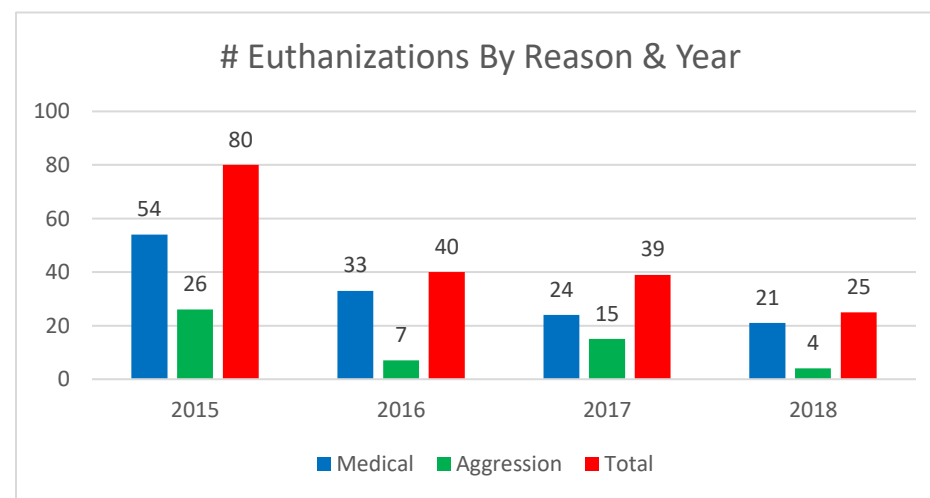
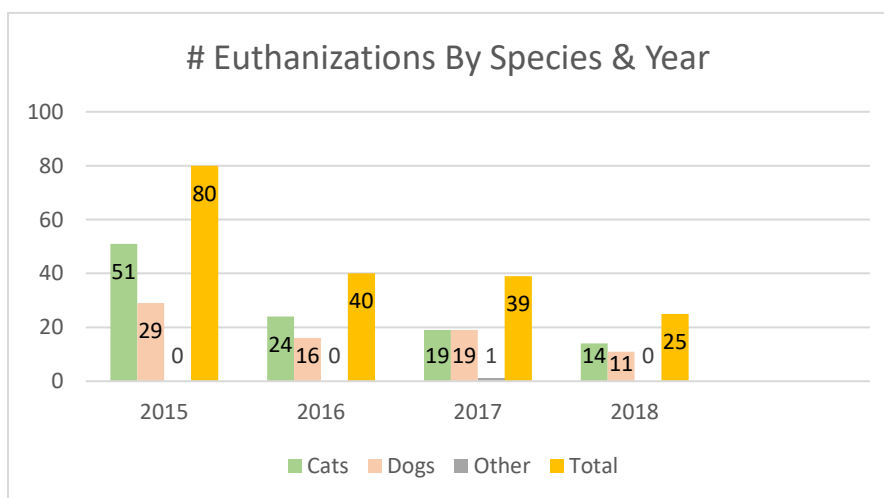
Euthanization Rates By Species & Year

Year	Cats			Dogs			Other			Total		
	# Outcomes	# Euthanized	% Euthanized	# Outcomes	# Euthanized	% Euthanized	# Outcomes	# Euthanized	% Euthanized	# Outcomes	# Euthanized	% Euthanized
2015	547	51	9.32%	577	29	5.03%	11	0	0.00%	1135	80	7.05%
2016	348	24	6.90%	472	16	3.39%	6	0	0.00%	826	40	4.84%
2017	329	19	5.78%	475	19	4.00%	93	1	1.08%	897	39	4.35%
2018	354	14	3.95%	508	11	2.17%	28	0	0.00%	890	25	2.81%

While maintaining our no-kill status by achieving a euthanasia rate lower than 10% is important to us, it's not just the numbers that we care about. What is most important is that we work every day and make every reasonable effort to preserve the lives of all animals in our care. Because we don't get to choose the animals that come to us, we understand that a zero euthanasia rate may be unattainable. But we ONLY consider euthanasia as an absolute last resort where no other avenue is open to prevent a danger to the public, other animals, or pain and suffering of the animal. And, by achieving a year to year reduction, and only 25 cases of euthanasia and a euthanasia rate of 2.81% in 2018, our efforts are showing results.

We have reduced medical euthanizations by implementing a strong quarantine policy for new animals coming into the shelter and strict disease prevention protocols for our staff and the public. In addition, with the new shelter facility specifically designed to address the health of our animals, we can quickly isolate sick animals to avoid the spread of disease. All of these precautions were critical in preventing a spread of the highly contagious and deadly Parvo virus in 2018 when two Parvo infected dogs were brought into the shelter.

Euthanizations for aggression have also been reduced dramatically. Because of the new facility and a full professional and dedicated staff, we are now able to work with and train regularly with behaviorally challenged animals to reduce aggression, and increase socialization so they are safe to the public and adoptable.



2018 Shelter Budget (All Funds)				
Including Animal Control				
Account Description	Total Budget	Total Expended	Amount Unspent	Percent Unspent
Salaries	357,983	356,543	1,440	0.4%
Hourly	200,000	187,692	12,308	6.2%
Other Supplies	41,271	35,863	5,408	13.1%
Household/Bedding	35,000	25,381	9,619	27.5%
Vet Services	115,000	74,024	40,976	35.6%
Advertising	10,000	9,419	581	5.8%
Building Maintenance Supplies	1,000	0	1,000	100.0%
Equipment Other Than Vehicles	2,000	1,979	21	1.1%
Uniforms & Clothing	2,500	2,362	138	5.5%
Dues & Subscriptions	1,575	1,575	0	0.0%
Training & Education	2,500	1,827	673	26.9%
Total	768,829	696,665	72,164	9.4%

The Shelter management team has worked diligently to control variable costs, and their efforts are apparent. Variable costs include Hourly Wages, Other Supplies, Household/Bedding and Veterinary Services. In 2018, the total budgeted for variable costs was \$391,271 and the amount expended was \$322,960. This realized a savings of \$68,311 or 17.5% of the total budgeted for variable costs.

These savings were achieved by:

- Strict monitoring of expenses and invoices.
- Reducing hourly wages by using Animal Control Officers, while not on calls, to assist in animal management, training and socialization.
- Reducing veterinary services through the continuation of the strong quarantine policy for new animals coming into the shelter, strict disease prevention protocols for our staff and the public, and the new shelter facility which was specifically designed to address the health of our animals and prevent the spread of disease.
- Reducing hourly wages, veterinary services, other supplies and household and bedding costs by reducing the average animal length of stay from 67 days in 2016 to 47 days in 2018.
- Reducing hourly wages by more actively recruiting, training and utilizing volunteers.

13. Outreach



The Shelter actively and successfully uses online platforms to promote adoptions of homeless animals, and educate the public about the Shelter, Animal Control, responsible pet ownership as well as our programs, policies and procedures. These outreach vehicles directly contribute to reducing the number of animal intakes, increasing animal outcomes, recruiting volunteers, and soliciting contributions of supplies...all of which contribute to reducing variable costs. Listed below are the four most commonly used platforms with a brief recap of their intended use and outreach statistics.



Porter County Animal Shelter Website

The Shelter's new website was launched on August 15, 2018. Between launch and the end of 2018, the website has had 22,142 visitors, resulting in a total of 82,672 page views and 65,324 unique page views. The most visited page was the adoptable dog photos page with 12,115 visits. 77% of the visitors used mobile devices and 23% used desktop computers.



Porter County Animal Shelter Facebook Page

This Facebook page is primarily used for, and very successful in, promoting adoption of homeless animals at the Shelter by posting their pictures and descriptions. We also use the page to educate the public about the Shelter, Animal Control, and our programs, policies and procedures. In 2015, the Shelter page had 4,278 followers. As of December 31, 2018, it has grown to 28,007 followers with 3,672 added in 2018, an increase of 15%. On average, over 363,000 Facebook users are reached by this page every month. Each photo of an adoptable animal that we post reaches an average of over 7,100 Facebook users. The highest reach of a single post in 2018 was over 110,000 Facebook users.



Lost & Found Pets In Porter County Facebook Page

This Facebook page is primarily used for, and very successful in, matching lost pets with their owners to reduce the number of animals before they come into the Shelter and shorten the length of stay when they do. The page was launched in September of 2013. As of December 31, 2018, it has grown to 12,333 followers with 3,154 added in 2018, an increase of 34%. On average, over 285,000 Facebook users are reached by this page every month. Each photo of a lost or found animal that we post reaches an average of over 15,600 Facebook users. The highest reach of a single post in 2018 was over 165,000 Facebook users.



Petfinder

The Shelter actively uses Petfinder, the largest online pet adoption website serving all of North America, by uploading pictures and descriptions of adoptable animals. Petfinder's online, searchable database matches pets who need homes with potential adopter. In 2018, there were over 160,000 views of the Shelter page on Petfinder and over 103,000 views of the Shelter's adoptable pet listings.

14. Accountability & Transparency



The Porter County Animal Shelter believes that all animal shelters, rescues and non-profits have a duty to be accountable to, and transparent with, our communities and supporters. As a publicly supported and taxpayer funded Shelter, we recognize and wholeheartedly embrace the heightened responsibility to be accountable and transparent with our stakeholders, including the Porter County Board of Commissioners, Porter County Council, municipal partners, taxpayers, supporters and volunteers. It is our intent to not just meet those responsibilities, but to “raise the bar” and set the example for other public and private animal shelters and non-profits by continuing to improve our accountability and transparency through the following:

No Kill Reports

While many organizations claim to be no kill, few openly disclose their euthanasia rates, policies and procedures. To our knowledge, the Porter County Animal Shelter is the ONLY shelter in northwest Indiana that regularly makes our intake and outcome data readily available to the public. Since September of 2015, we have been posting intake and outcome data on our website, at least semi-annually. Those reports also include our euthanasia policies and procedures.

New Website

In August of 2018, we launched our new Porter County Animal Shelter website. In addition to promoting adoptions, recruiting volunteers and soliciting donations, the new website was specifically designed to enhance our transparency with the public for both the Animal Shelter and Animal Control. Adoption policies, procedures and fees, including what a potential adopter can expect when they visit the shelter are fully disclosed. Owner Surrender, Stray Drop Off and Stray Reclaim policies, procedures and fees are fully explained. The Animal Control Ordinance is made available, section by section on the website and is also available to be downloaded. In addition, the website was designed to be more accessible to visitors by being fully compatible with both mobile and desktop devices.

New Data Driven Municipal Cost Allocation Methodology

In conjunction with the Commissioners, we introduced a new data driven Municipal Cost Allocation Methodology to the cities and towns who contract with us to provide Animal Shelter and Animal Control Services. This fifteen page report provided actual animal intake and animal control data, along with actual costs for the Shelter and Animal Control.

Annual Reports

Beginning with this 2018 Annual Report, it is our intent to provide this annual report to all stakeholders every year.

Future Reporting

Pending approval by the Board of Commissioners, the Shelter will be enhancing our data collection and reporting capabilities through PetPoint, our animal management system. These enhancements will include additional reporting for animal control calls, intakes and outcomes by jurisdiction and medical care. Once these new capabilities are in place and fully utilized, it is our intent to provide more in-depth reporting to all of our stakeholders on a more frequent basis.